

MINUTES

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY MEETING HELD ON Tuesday, January 9, 2007, AT 6:00 p.m. IN THE McCLOSKEY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 401 N. MORTON, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Roll Call

Members Present: Bob Bent, Keith Clay, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Cairril Mills, Dave Rollo, Catherine Stafford, Toby Strout, John West

Staff Present: Danise Alano, Director of Economic Development
Mike Steinhoff, Service Corps Intern
Jenny Sumner, Service Corps Intern

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. John West moved to approve the December meeting minutes, seconded by Toby Strout. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Paul Schneller asked about where BCOS stands with coordinating with IU. BCOS is gathering names for new Committee members. In addition, BCOS has initiatives involving IU and welcomes their participation. Paul encouraged BCOS to write a letter to Vice President Claypacs to introduce the commission and do ask for a meeting. Paul is working with a group of faculty at IU to establish a sustainability task force.

Announcements

- Congratulations to our new Council President, Dave Rollo.
- Cairril suggested that commissioners replace or remove paper and Styrofoam cups from vending machines in their places of business. This could also be a project for Team Green.
- The Planning Commission approved the Southern Indiana Medical Center proposal in Tapp Road near 37.
- The proposed changes in Indiana recycling to include incineration were discussed. The EC will be commenting on this issue, but BCOS members should be aware of it.
- New York City has established a Sustainability Commission with large goals.

Reports from Staff

- Bloomington Transit reported 2.36 million riders in 2006, up from 2.15 million in 2005. They hope to have a 5-10% increase this year. BT will also have a hybrid bus shortly.

- The Unified Development Ordinance (ODO) will become effective February 12, 2007.
- Community and Family Resources has filled their Latino Outreach Position.
- Elodia was found again at Griffy Lake. The lake will be treated with a lower level chemical treatment this spring.
- The Parks and Rec Department is undergoing a year long planning process for their 5 year plan (2008-2012). It was suggested that a BCOS member be involved with that process.
- Congratulations to Danise on her new job, Director of Economic Development!

2007 BCOS Members

John West has been reappointed by the Mayor. The Mayor's office is still gathering names to fill the 2 vacant seats.

Office nominations

John Hamilton was nominated for Chair. George Huntington was nominated for Vice Chair. Catherine moved to vote and Toby seconded. Both positions approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Initiatives

1. Lightbulbs

George Huntington will take the lead on this project, with assistance from Jenny. Christine will help with education aspects and Toby will help with social services issues. A target goal of 10% reduction in greenhouse gasses would be accomplished if we changed 41,000 light bulbs in Bloomington. Right now we are looking at support from Duke for reduced price or free light bulbs. Potential partnerships include IU, hotels, churches, etc. Dave Rollo mentioned the Green Sanctuary Taskforce at the UU church that is working to set up a light bulb distribution. Dave also suggested that we contact the Midwest Energy Coalition, which facilitates purchasing lowest cost bulbs. Other partners suggested include the Monroe County Builders Association. This project will require a strong initial statement by the Mayor and a well designed communication plan.

2. Tour

Keith Clay will lead this project. It will be modeled on the garden walk and home tour, featuring the 3 E's, to take place in late summer or early fall. The project was suggested as an initiative by Cathy Moore. Potential projects include Evergreen development, geothermal, backyard habitat, permaculture, school grounds, homes off the grid or using solar, hydro, or geothermal, the local growers' guild, neighborhood groups, the free health clinic, the bike project, ReStore, the straw bale home built by Habitat. It was also suggested that the new hybrid busses be used to transport people. Keith mentioned a news release to allow people to self-nominate. Hosts would have to be available on the day of the tour to explain their project.

3. Logo

John Hamilton will talk with Cairril about developing a proposal for a BCOS logo / “stamp of approval.”

4. Trees

Mike will look for other organizations giving out trees so that BCOS can assist them.

Indicators Committee

Mike has developed a schedule for producing the Indicators Report. He will submit draft work for BCOS to review before the next meeting.

Education Committee

- The Education Committee will be sponsoring energy events on the second Monday of every month. Matt Wysocki is also interested in presenting. He focuses on the low-income aspect of the 3 Es.
- Cairril has picked up her original Sustainability 101 tape from CATS. She will present on January 15, 2007 to Harmony School juniors and seniors, and also give a full length presentation to the Rotary Club on February 20, 2007.

Partnerships and Resources

John West is looking at IU collaboration, the Mayor’s discretionary budget, and grants for sustainability. Catherine said she can write grants once BCOS develops a specific proposal.

Old Business/New Business

- The energy report produced by Bob, Dave, and others will be distributed as a resource or white paper. The committee recognized the amount of research that went into producing this document. Bob mentioned that the document was designed to generate conversation, and that if we choose to post it on the website he would like to revise the document. Dave also asked for those with objections to specific parts of the research to talk to him.
- Dave and John Hamilton will work on drafting a letter to Vice President Claypacs.
- The possibility of a half-day retreat was discussed. The retreat would help the group discuss short and long term goals as well as the perspectives of individual members. There are no funds available for a facilitator, but Beverly Calendar Anderson was suggested as a possibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.